

at least said first and second computers and a network, said system comprising:

at least one first communication mechanism residing on both said first and second computers for facilitating communications between said first and second processes that are each used with backup or restore operations over said network;

a second communication mechanism residing on both said first and second computers facilitating communication between said first and second processes through said data storage system; and

means, within said first and second processes, for allowing said first and second processes to determine whether a communication from said first and second processes is from first or second communication mechanism, wherein, in response to determining if a communication is from said first communication mechanism then communicating over said network and in response to determining if a communication is from said first communication mechanism then communicating through said data storage system.

6. (Twice amended) A method for assisting with backup and restore operations in a computer system, the method comprising:

(a) establishing at least one first connection over a network, between first and second processes that are each used with backup or restore operations and that are each residing on different computers, wherein said first connection is configured to be responsively used for communication over a network; and

(b) establishing, in parallel with establishing said at least one first connection, a second connection, through a data storage system, between said first and said second processes, wherein said second connection is configured to be responsively used for communication over said data storage system.

13. (Twice amended) The method of claim 12, wherein step (b) further comprises the steps of:

receiving information about a group of resources in said data storage system;

in response to receiving information about said group of resources, creating a fourth pair of communication mechanism, wherein said fourth pair includes a first communication mechanism and a second communication mechanism; and

connecting said first communication mechanism and said second communication mechanism of said fourth pair of communication mechanism to each other through said data storage system.

15. (Twice amended) A method for assisting with backup and restore operations in a computer system, the method comprising:

- establishing a connection, over a network, between a first process and a second process that are each used with backup or restore operations and that are each residing on different computers;

- receiving information about a dynamically created communication mechanism over the established connection;

- establishing a second connection over the network, on the dynamically created communication mechanism, between said first and second processes;

- identifying resources on a data storage devices to be used in order to transfer information through said storage device; and

- establishing a connection between said first and second processes through said data storage system.